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A PIONEER IN ANGLO-SAXON.

IN an article entitled "The Study of English in the South" (SEWANEE REVIEW, II., 180), Prof. Henneman, of the University of the South, writes as follows (p. 184): "It was likewise another Virginian, Louis F. Klipstein, a graduate of Hampden-Sidney College, who somehow or other got over to a German university, and in order to show his interest in the subject as early as the forties began the publication of the first Anglo-Saxon texts in America—the Gospels, and two volumes of selections, besides a grammar. . . ." Quoting once more (p. 187), "Randolph-Macon College would have deserved notice for devoting a separate chair to English literature as early as 1836, almost from its inception, and Edward Dromgoole Sims (a Master of Arts of the University of North Carolina) gave a course in historical English in the year 1839. He was installed in that year as professor of English, after a stay in Europe, where he heard lectures on Anglo-Saxon. Tradition tells how, having no text-books, he used the blackboards for his philological work. At the end of three years he removed to the University of Alabama in consequence of having contracted a marriage not then allowed under the laws of Virginia. He was preparing a series of text-books in Old English, tradition again says, when he died, in 1845. Had he accomplished his purpose, these works would have preceded Klipstein's in point of time."

Dame Rumor, for once at least, has proved herself truthful, and it is the discovery of these traditional text-books which has led to the writing of this paper.

On July 8, 1890, the Rev. J. Stephan found several notebooks in a second-hand bookstore in St. Louis, and, noticing the name of Prof. Sims on the title-page, he purchased the lot and sent them to the Librarian at Randolph-Macon College, from whom it was my privilege to obtain them. The entire lot consists of four notebooks, in which are found, in addi-

tion, many loose leaves which contain notes on various subjects, the entries extending from 1827 to 1844. The third notebook contains the beginning of an Anglo-Saxon dictionary, bibliographies, and notes on grammar. The fourth book contains a second attempt at an Anglo-Saxon dictionary, over which the author has written his Anglo-Saxon grammar, advice to speakers, sermons, etc. The remainder of the notes relates mainly to his private life.

Prof. Edward Dromgoole Sims was born in Brunswick County, Va., March 24, 1805. His father united the callings of planter and physician, and in his later years became a minister of the gospel. Prof. Sims received the usual education of a child of that period, being sent from one private school to another, and at times being instructed at home. In his youth he was not noted for his brilliancy as a pupil; but in July, 1820, at the age of sixteen, he entered the Freshman class of the University of North Carolina, in which he gained first rank for scholarship. His course consisted of arithmetic, algebra, Sallust, Virgil's Georgics, Cicero, Græca Minora, Græca Majora, Xenophon, modern and ancient geography—surely not a preponderance of the modern languages. He took his A.B. degree in 1824, and his A.M. degree in 1827, and was for three years a tutor at the university, presumably in the years 1824-27. After obtaining his A.M. degree he made a tour of the Western States, going as far as St. Louis.

Randolph-Macon College was opened for students on October 9, 1832, and Edward D. Sims, then professor in La Grange College, Alabama, was elected to the chair of Languages. He was an enthusiastic teacher of English, and, being unable to procure Anglo-Saxon text-books, he wrote the elementary exercises upon the blackboard. He frequently emphasized the importance of having a good command of language, and regarded the thorough and radical study of the English language as the great means for gaining a true knowledge and just appreciation of our own literature. The trustees were so impressed with the value of his course that in June, 1835, they granted him leave of absence to visit Europe, in order that he might prosecute the study of Mod-

ern Languages, and particularly of Anglo-Saxon and Gothic, preparatory to a more thorough teaching of the English language, one of the first moves in such a direction made by any college in America. George F. Pierce was elected to fill Prof. Sims's place as professor of Languages, and in June, 1836, the Rev. Mr. Tomlinson was elected to fill the chair of English Literature until Prof. Sims's return from Europe.

Prof. Sims returned from Europe in 1838, and assumed the chair of English Literature and Oriental Languages. From his diary we know that he studied at Halle, and also paid a visit to Leipzig. His chief friend and companion at Halle appears to have been Prof. Tholuck, under whom he also took lectures. At a called meeting of the Board of Trust of Randolph-Macon College, held in April, 1842, Prof Sims tendered his resignation. The law of Virginia at that time prohibited a person from marrying the sister of his deceased wife. Prof. Sims was about to marry Miss Annie Andrews, the daughter of Prof. E. A. Andrews, the father of his first wife, and he was therefore compelled to leave the State in order to effect the marriage. His loss was much regretted by the trustees and friends of the college, particularly as there was no one to fill his position in the special English course. He was then elected to the chair of English in the University of Alabama, where he formulated a course of instruction in English based on the Anglo-Saxon, similar to the one he had taught at Randolph-Macon. Here it was that he worked upon his Anglo-Saxon dictionary and grammar, the remains of which have come into our hands. There are also portions of his notes which indicate that he had intended writing an English grammar. He died in the spring of 1845, before the completion of either work. The only male member of the family named Sims now living informs me that Prof. Sims helped Prof. Andrews, his father-in-law, in the compilation of the Latin Grammar, known as Andrews and Stoddard's Latin Grammar.

I have found it rather difficult to collect further data with regard to his life; even that which I have succeeded in obtaining has often been of the most untrustworthy nature,

the family Bible having occasionally proved inferior to the college catalogue as a source of information. He has left us a faithful diary, extending from his earliest days through his Freshman year at the University of North Carolina. From this we learn that he came of good stock, members of his family having been prominent in the Virginia Legislature, that a stubborn tongue always hindered his rapid advance in the speaking of foreign languages, and that he was also a preacher of the gospel. He was a lover of travel, and has left us a record of a trip to Andover, Mass., which he made in July, 1834, for the purpose of studying Hebrew. His disposition as shown in the diary may be characterized as sensitive, methodical, and deeply religious.

One of his pupils at Randolph-Macon has written of him as follows: "He was a man of marked personal appearance, of great dignity and gentlemanly manner, and a most devoted Christian. Though not endowed by nature with the mental powers of others of his associates, he nevertheless by industrious application became a fine scholar and a model professor. He was a high man in person and every way, and was also thoroughly imbued with the love of his native English." (Irby's History of Randolph-Macon College, p. 43.)

The dictionary is in an unfinished condition. In one volume he has set down in alphabetical order a large number of Anglo-Saxon words from *A* to *W*, and opposite them he has made various notes in pencil, such as *an*, *ain*, *aen*, *gen-es* (wk.) *aenette*, *aenig*, *naig*, *ana*, *annes*, *aninga*, *anlaga*, *anlic*, *naenig*, *nan*, *nem*, *amber*. *A* is fairly well filled out, but the other letters are filled in irregularly. In another book he has written out a number of words alphabetically arranged, and discussed them down to about the middle of *C*; then he seems to have given up the task, for, running his pen through the words, he has used the same pages for his grammar.

This he outlines as follows:

Preface, System, and Design of Work.

INTRODUCTION.

1. History of Anglo-Saxons.
 2. History of Anglo-Saxon language (both of these in the Indo-Germanic aspect).
 3. Anglo-Saxon Literature and Bibliography.
- The grammar proper he divides as follows: Part I., Etymology; Part II., Syntax.

PART I.

Chapter I. Sounds and Letters.

1. History of Anglo-Saxon letters.
2. Sounds of letters.
3. Articulation of sounds.
 - (a) Vowels.
 - (b) Consonants.
4. Interchange of sounds.
 - (a) Vowels.
 - (b) Consonants.
5. The syllable.

Chapter II. Kinds and Forms of Words.

1. Kinds of words.
 - (a) Notional words—verb, noun, adjective.
 - (b) Relational words—pronouns, numerals, prepositions, conjunctions. Adverbs are mixed.
2. Form of words.
 - (a) Verb.

The Preface he deferred writing, or else what he wrote has not yet come to light.

One characteristic of the whole is, as might be expected from a pioneer work, a fullness which strikes us of the present day as unusual and unnecessary. For instance, grammar in general is defined and explained, the necessity of language to a nation, and the relation is shown between language, sentences, and words. Such sentences as the following would hardly appear in any of the Anglo-Saxon grammars of to-day: "The body is suited to be the instrument of the mind, and the varied and delicate construction of man's organs of speech correspond to the rational and discrimina-

ting spirit within him. As this latter creates ideas of things with its cognizance, and out of ideas by referring them to each other constructs *thoughts* and *judgments*, the former (*i. e.*, organs of speech), by an easy and natural course, enunciates *words* and *sentences* as correspondent outward signs of these *ideas* or *thoughts*."

One of the most interesting paragraphs is that on the interchange of sounds. According to Sims, the interchange of vowels arises from the fact that they are all made with the cavity of the mouth open, and that the shape of this cavity, when fitted to make one vowel sound, passes into those suitable for other vowel sounds by very slight alterations. We shall let him for the most part exclaim it in his own language.

$$\left. \begin{array}{c} a \\ i \\ u \end{array} \right\} e \quad \left. \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \end{array} \right\} o, ou$$

A, i, u, are the general and original vowel sounds, and are but seldom found interchanging with each other; *e* is by nature intermediate between *a* and *i*, and is really equivalent to *a + i*. In like manner, *o* and *ou* are but different modifications of the diphthong of *a + u*. Now the most common and general law of vowel interchange is based upon this relationship of sounds, and is this: that *a* and *i* interchange readily with *e*, and that *a* and *u* also severally interchange readily with *o*, *ou*, *au*, while *a*, *i*, *u* are very seldom found placed for each other. The chief case where the primary vowels interchange contrary to the general rule is found in the conjugation of some verbs, the plural of some nouns, and in a few derivative words, such as *dēman* from *dōm*. Thus to illustrate: the parallel forms *man* and *mon* are due to the easy transition from *a* to *o* (this is the nasal influence of Siever's Grammar, 68); *swotol* and *swutol* to the easy transition between *o* and *u* (S. 71, influence of *w*); *licgan* and *lecgan* to the easy transition between *e* and *i* (S. 89, *i* umlaut); *h:ah* and *hehst* to the easy passage of *a* to *e* (S. 101, palatal umlaut). It was in such words as *fōt*, *fēt*, *dōm*, *dēman* that the scheme fell through. It has at least the advantage of simplicity; for, instead of taking into account breaking, the various um-

lauts, influence of *w*, influence of the nasals, etc., he gives but two simple rules for explaining every change.

As a last example of the grammar, we shall give a short synopsis of his treatment of the verb.

Transitive, intransitive, reflexive, reciprocal, and passive verbs are explained fully. Moods, tenses, and numbers of the verb are then treated, and blank spaces left for the insertion of examples. Conjugation is divided into simple (corresponding to Sievers's weak) and complex (corresponding to Sievers's strong). The verbs of the simple conjugation are divided into two classes: First, those which are derived by affixing *i*, *si*, *ni*, *ci*, *igi*, *gi* to the root before it assumes the formative syllable, thus corresponding roughly to what Sievers terms the *ō* class (*lufian*, *lufode*), and the original short stems of the *jo* class (*nerian*). Second, those which append the formative syllable to the root with or without a change of the radical vowel, thus corresponding to the original and polysyllables of Sievers's *dēman*, *dēmdē*) and the *ai* class (*habban*, *haefde*).

Another class of verbs is cited as not only following the above changes, but as also changing the vowels of the present. He says that, since the verbs of this class are the most common in our language, he will draw up a list of them. This he has failed to do, but he gives the following rule for them: When a vowel stands in a monosyllable it is *ā*, *ae*, or *ea*, but when it is followed by another syllable it is *u*, *eo*, *oi*. I presume that the preterit-present verbs are referred to, since many of them comply with his rule (*sceal*, *sculon*, *sceolde*; *thearf*, *thurfon*, *thorfte*).

In his discussing the complex conjugation no mention of ablaut appears. The change of the radical vowel is noted as a characteristic, as is also the change, *helpe*, *hilpeth*, but no cause for the changes is assigned. Complex verbs are divided into two classes: First, those which preserve the vowel of the perfect unchanged. Of this, there are three species; those in *ae*, *baed*, *baedon* (where the change in quantity between singular and plural is not noted); *ō*, *fōr*, *fōron*; *ē*, *feng*, *fengon*. Second, those which change the vowel of the perfect

to some other vowel in the second person singular and the plural of the indicative, and throughout the tense in the subjunctive mood. There are also three species of this: *a, u, band, bundon*; *ā, i, grāþ, griþon*; *ēā, u, bēād, budon*. It will be seen that these approximate the later scientific classification of Anglo-Saxon strong verbs.

Here the manuscript comes to an untimely end, but we can see from the plan of the book, and from the many references to other portions of the work, that he purposed making a complete grammar, a grammar far in advance of Thomas Jefferson's "Essay on the Anglo-Saxon," and one which should compare favorably with its predecessors. Prof. Sims seems to have been well acquainted with the Anglo-Saxon literature of his day. The books most used in the preparation of his grammar are: Rask's Anglo-Saxon Grammar, Bosworth's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, Hickes's Thesaurus, Freese's Deutsche Prosodie, and W. Grimm's *Ueber die deutschen Runen*.

We thus have a portion of the first Anglo-Saxon grammar written upon this side of the water, nor does a comparison with the Anglo-Saxon grammars then in existence (as far as the incomplete state of Sims's grammar allows us to make such a comparison) tend to make us ashamed of this product of early American scholarship.

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